

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /125 W

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P 032337Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9651

INFO US MISSION USUN PRIORITY 902

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1739

USUN FOR LOS DEL; D/LOS FOR ALAN JAMES

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: ARCTIC POLLUTION AND STRAITS AGREEMENT

REF: OTTAWA 1752

1. ON MAY 3 EXTAFD DEPMINISTER BASIL ROBINSON REVIEWED WITH DCM HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ARCTIC REGIME-STRAITS AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN MINISTER MACEACHEN AND AMBASSADOR LEARSON, AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED BY ROBINSON WITH AMBASSADOR ENDERS OVER PAST TWO DAYS (SEE REFTTEL). ROBINSON RECAPITULATED PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES FACING GOC AND STATED THAT ARCTIC REGIME-STRAITS UNDERSTANDING WOULD NOT REACH FINAL CONSIDERATION BY CABINET UNTIL MID-JUNE AT EARLIES. HE THEN SOUGHT CLARIFICATION ON TWO POINTS:

(A) WHAT IS STRAITS LANGUAGE WHICH USG SUPPORTS, AND

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(B) SINCE GOC CANNOT GET CABINET APPROVAL OF UNDERSTANDING PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF CURRENT SESSION ON MAY 7, WOULD DEAL AUTOMATICALLY BE OFF.

2. AFTER CHECKING WITH LOS DEL (LEITZELL), DCM GAVE EXTAF (BISSENETTE) FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO ROBINSON'S QUESTIONS. USG SUPPORTS LANGUAGE ON STRAITS EXISTING IN PRESENT SNT (WITH AMENDMENT ON ARTICLE 35 A) AND THEREFORE IS ASKING GOC DELEGATION TO DESIST FROM ANY EFFORT TO OPEN STRAITS TEXT TO RENEGOTIATION, AND, IF ASKED, TO STATE THAT LANGUAGE IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TO GOC. WITH RESPECT TO TIME FRAME FOR VIABILITY OF MACEACHEN-LEARSON UNDERSTANDING, DCM SAYS PACE OF EVENTS IN NEW YORK REQUIRES IMMEDIATE GOC DECISION ON STRAITS IF USG WERE TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE ON ARCTIC REGIME DURING CURRENT SESSION. GIVEN DELAY IN CABINET CONSIDERATION OF UNDERSTANDING, WE WOULD NOT DISAVOW IT BUT AT SAME TIME WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO STAND UNALTERABLY BEHIND OUR SIDE OF UNDERSTANDING UNTIL GOC IS IN POSITION TO DO LIKEWISE. OBVIOUSLY, IT WOULD HELP KEEP UNDERSTANDING ALIVE IF BEESLEY WERE TO REMAIN PASSIVE ON STRAITS ISSUE IN NEW YORK.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DCM SAID OUR NEGOTIATORS WILL RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH MACEACHEN IN NAIROBI.
ENDERS

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